

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 09/934,031

Confirmation No.: 7794

Filed: 20 August 2001

For: REMOVABLE RETROREFLECTIVE MATERIAL

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1-14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Withdrawn)** A method comprising:

covering a non-adhesive side of a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with retroreflective beads; and

applying heat and pressure to melt the retroreflective beads into the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on approximately half of a glass bead surface area.

17. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed surfaces of the retroreflective beads.

18. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads onto the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape.

19. **(Withdrawn)** A method comprising:

covering a first side of a foam backing with retroreflective beads; and

applying heat and pressure to melt the retroreflective beads into the first side of

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the foam backing.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on approximately half of a glass bead surface area.
21. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed surfaces of the retroreflective beads.
22. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads into the first side of the foam backing.
- 23-37. **(Canceled)**
38. **(Withdrawn)** A method of using a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, comprising:
covering a non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with retroreflective beads;
applying heat and pressure to melt the retroreflective beads into the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape; and
removably attaching the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape to human skin or clothing.
39. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 38, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on approximately half of a glass bead surface area.

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40. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 38, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed surfaces of the retroreflective beads.
41. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 38, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads onto the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape.
42. **(New)** An article comprising:
a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side, wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive, and
a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing without the use of an additional adhesive or a resin.
43. **(New)** The article of claim 42, wherein the single layer backing is medical tape having a foam backing.
44. **(New)** The article of claim 42, wherein the single layer backing is medical tape having a non-woven backing.
45. **(New)** The article of claim 42, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

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46. (New) The article of claim 42, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.
47. (New) The article of claim 42, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.
48. (New) An article comprising:
- a foam backing including first and second sides with the proviso that there are no intervening layers in the foam between the first and second sides;
 - a pressure-sensitive adhesive material covering the first side; and
 - a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the second side, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise a coating comprising aluminum.
49. (New) The article of claim 48, wherein the article is made by the process of:
- coating the first side of the foam backing with the pressure-sensitive adhesive material;
 - covering the second side of the foam backing with retroreflective beads; and
 - applying heat and pressure to partially embed the retroreflective beads in the second side of the foam backing.

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50. (New) The article of claim 49, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads onto the second side of the foam backing.
51. (New) The article of claim 48, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.
52. (New) The article of claim 48, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.
53. (New) The article of claim 48, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.
54. (New) The article of claim 48, wherein the foam backing comprises a closed-cell cross-linked foam.
55. (New) An article comprising:
a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side,
wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive; and

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a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise a coating comprising aluminum, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

56. (New) The article of claim 55, wherein the single layer backing includes a foam backing.
57. (New) The article claim 55, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.
58. (New) An article comprising:
- a foam backing including first and second sides with the proviso that there are no intervening layers in the foam between the first and second sides;
 - a pressure-sensitive adhesive material covering the first side; and
 - a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the second side, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place in the first side of the foam backing without the use of an adhesive or a resin.
59. (New) An article comprising:
- a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side, wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive; and
 - a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an

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initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750, and further wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place on the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing without the use of an adhesive or resin.